

ChicagoIndoorRowing Contact: John S. Butsch 312.731.0441	CIRC	Adaptive Profiles
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Linda Mastandrea is the vice president of Sport and Accessibility for Chicago 2016, where she acts as the sports representative for the bid across all functional areas while also ensuring seamless integration across its Olympic and Paralympic plans.

Linda is an attorney in Chicago, IL, and leads a private practice concentrating in disability law and advocacy. She has been active in the disability advocacy and sports communities since her college days at the University of Illinois, when she was introduced to wheelchair sports.

While competing in wheelchair track, Linda won 15 gold and 5 silver medals representing the United States in Paralympic and World Championship competition during the 1990s. She held national and world records in all five distances in which she competed during her career

Linda earned her BA in speech communication from the University of Illinois and her JD from Chicago-Kent College of Law. She has lectured and taught across the country on disability law, education and advocacy. Currently, she also serves as a hearing officer for special-education cases in Illinois.

Linda, a freelance writer, has written a book and numerous magazine articles. Her book, *Sports and the Physically Challenged: An Encyclopedia of People, Events and Organizations*, was published by Greenwood Press in the fall of 2006. Her work has been featured in *New Mobility*, *Sports 'n Spokes*, *We Media* and *Exceptional Parent* magazines.

Linda serves on the board of Access Living, where she chairs the Lawyer's Advisory Committee. She is vice president to the National Disability Sports Alliance and a member of Legal Committee of the International Paralympic Committee. She served on the USOC's board of directors for two years.

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Fulfilling his commitment to address the needs of Chicago's disabled community, Chicago Park District General Superintendent Tim Mitchell appointed Larry Labiak to serve as the District's first Disability Policy Officer. The Park District Board of Commissioners approved Labiak's appointment at the July 2005 meeting.

As Disability Policy Officer, Labiak oversees the District's ADA compliance initiatives and guides its efforts to create a fully accessible park system. He plays an integral role in identifying ways to improve accessibility to park facilities and prioritizing ADA capital projects. Labiak also advises staff on development and implementation of policies and programs inclusive of people with disabilities.

Labiak's appointment followed 12 years of service for the Chicago Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD). During his tenure there, he developed and directed the Disabled Youth Peer Development Initiative, a year-long mentorship program designed to prepare high school students with disabilities for a successful transition to higher education and employment.

Labiak also brought to the Park District more than 25 years of experience (as a competitor, official and administrator) in adaptive sports and recreation programs for people with disabilities.



Ron Harvey is a five-time U.S. National Team member and three-time medalist at the FISA World Championships. In 2008, Harvey competed at the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing, China, rowing in the men's single sculls – Arms only.

Harvey began rowing with MIT at the age of 18 and now trains with the California Adaptive Rowing Program at the Long Beach Rowing Association.

Harvey works as an engineer at Parker-Hannifin, a company specializing in motion and control technology. When he isn't working or on the water, Harvey also enjoys handcycling.



Entering the 2008 Paralympic Games, Emma Preuschl was a first-time national team and a first-time Paralympian. Nonetheless, Preuschl, who has Erbs Palsy of the brachial plexus, a condition that limits her strength and range of motion in her left arm, was immune to the pressure of the international competition. Her team of Simona Chin (Houston, Texas), James Dean (Pickerinton, Ohio), Jesse Karmazin (Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.) and Tracy Tackett (Phoenixville, Pa.) claimed the silver medal in the legs, trunks and arms mixed four with coxswain.

She began her athletic career at Irvington Sports Association, playing softball for eight years and coaching her younger sister. She participated in CYO kickball, basketball and volleyball throughout grade school. At Cathedral High School she went on to play softball and run cross country.

Preuschl began her rowing career in college at Purdue University. She worked her way up from the bottom of the roster into a varsity boat by her junior year. She finished her collegiate rowing career with a bronze medal at the Dad Vail National Regatta as a senior. As she finished her degree, she also volunteered as an assistant coach for the Purdue Crew Novice Women's team, as well as train for her first full marathon.